

fund to be used for the prosecution of zoo-geographical explorations. The interest derived from a principal fund of some \$50,000 to \$60,000 would fairly equip annual expeditions to regions that have been thus far little, or not at all, investigated—Florida, the West Indies, Mexico, Central America, or Labrador, for example—and permit of a large amount of material to be collected for the use of naturalists generally.

The special curatorial work during the past year has been mainly in connection with the departments of Vertebrate and Invertebrate Palaeontology and Osteology. The entire collections of fossil fishes, reptiles and mammals have been brought together, properly arranged and classified, and constituted into distinct sections or departments. The specimens of osteology have been largely identified and classified, and are now in a condition to be advantageously used by the student and specialist. A special collection, intended to illustrate the type forms of animal life, from the highest to very nearly the lowest, designed to facilitate the work of the zoological student, is rapidly approaching completion, although still requiring a system of improved explanatory labeling.

The routine work connected with the curatorial office has been accomplished as heretofore, and requires no special enumeration of details. The institution has benefitted during the year through the services of five Jessup Fund beneficiaries, covering as many distinct departments.

Very respectfully,

ANGELO HEILPRIN,

Curator-in-charge.

JOS. LEIDY,

Chairman Curators.

REPORT OF THE CURATOR OF THE WILLIAM S. VAUX COLLECTIONS.

The Curator of the William S. Vaux collections respectfully reports:—

The collections are in good condition, no change having been made in the arrangement except that which was rendered necessary by the addition of one hundred and four mineral specimens,

which have been purchased for the collection out of the funds provided for that purpose. The additions have been arranged according to the system of classification adopted.

According to the report of 1884, the mineral specimens	
numbered,	6,412
Additions purchased during the current year, ending	
Nov. 30, 1885,	104
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Total,	6,516
Archæological specimens (same as noted in report of	
1884),	2,940

The Mineralogical collection has a wide reputation, and has been visited by a large number of persons during the year, many of them prominent mineralogists. Those who had examined the collection previous to the decease of William S. Vaux, have noticed the absence of a number of the most remarkable specimens which it formerly contained and which added so much to its fame. It is to be regretted that those specimens should have been separated from the others, thereby decreasing its importance as a mineral collection, and as a memorial of the decedent.

The following specimens, numbering 104, have been purchased during the year and placed in the collection at the aggregate cost of \$542.95 :—

1884, December 1.—Four specimens of tourmaline, two gold crystals, one fowlerite, cat's-eye (Ceylon), chalcopyrite, pisolite, zircon (white), jasper (from the Nile), crocidolite, ruby (cut spec.), N. J., sapphire (purple), sapphire (white), turquoise, turquoise (Persian), citron (Orange Co.), citron (pale yellow), amethyst.

1885, March 30.—One specimen of crocidolite, bastnäsite, two wulfenites (Nev.), one barite, wulfenite (red), vanadanite, anatase.

April 20.—One specimen of hematite, chialstolite.

April 30.—Tray of concretions.

May 4.—One specimen of chalcedony, chalcedony with bubble, hornblende.

May 5.—One specimen of corundum, moss agate, maconite, analcine on copper, jade, beryl, diaspore on corundum, cassiterite, two tourmalines (green), one lepidolite, pectolite, tourmaline on cookeite.

March 5.—Three specimens of rutile, one chialstolite.

March 24.—Nine specimens of small diamonds.

March 25.—One specimen of lepidolite, hornblende, staurolite.

May 27.—Two specimens of descloisite, one vanadinite, diamond on matrix, quartz (mod. crystal), calamine, smithsonite, smithsonite (geode).

September 10.—One specimen of quartz on hematite, azurite, colemanite, leidyite.

September 27.—Two specimens of obsidian or pearl spar, one fluorite (polished), opal.

October 13.—One specimen of apophyllite, polydelphite, dysluite.

October 13.—Two specimens of calamine, one franklinite, zincite, willemite, zincite, two rhodenites.

November 9.—Two specimens of topaz, one beryl (green cut), beryl (yellow cut), essonite.

Brush's Blowpipe Analysis and Dana's Text-book of Mineralogy were purchased for the use of the Curator.

Respectfully submitted,

JACOB BINDER,

Curator.

REPORT OF THE BIOLOGICAL AND MICROSCOPICAL SECTION.

The number of meetings held during the year ending December 1, 1885, was sixteen.

The average attendance was ten.

The following members were elected: Dr. Horace F. Jayné, Dr. J. Bernard Brinton.

The following members resigned: Dr. Persifor Frazer, W. T. Seal, Dr. J. D. Thomas, Dr. J. G. Richardson.

The following were some of the more important communications brought before the Section:—

December 15, 1884. By Dr. Benjamin Sharp, upon "Homologies of the Vertebrate Lens."

January 5, 1885. Dr. Benjamin Sharp, upon "The Formation of Teeth in *Ancyllus*."

January 5. By Miss Fielde, upon "The Process of Regeneration of Parts of the Earth Worm;" by Dr. Horace F. Jayne, upon "A Process of Staining."